



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 25, 2000

H.R. 4904

A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians, to provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian government and the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian government, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 20, 2000

H.R. 4904 would establish a process for a Native Hawaiian government to be constituted and recognized by the federal government. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4904 would cost \$5 million over the 2001-2003 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 4904 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enactment of this legislation could lead to the creation of a new government to represent native Hawaiians. The transfer of any lands or other assets to this new government, including lands now controlled by the state of Hawaii, would be the subject of future negotiations. Similarly, federal payments to native Hawaiians following recognition of a Native Hawaiian government would depend on future legislation.

The bill would establish the United States Office for Native Hawaiian Affairs within the Department of the Interior (DOI) to coordinate services to native Hawaiians, as defined in the bill. The bill would authorize the office to assist in developing a list of individuals who meet that definition. Based on information from DOI, CBO estimates that this work would cost \$2 million over the 2001-2003 period. In addition, the bill would establish a commission to verify that those listed meet the bill's criteria for native Hawaiians. Based on information from DOI, we estimate that commission costs would total about \$1 million each year over the three-year period.

On September 25, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 2899, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on September 14, 2000. These two bills are identical, as are our cost estimates.

The CBO staff contacts are Lanette J. Keith (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.